



SUPERFUND KICK-OFF FACT SHEET

WARD TRANSFORMER SITE Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina

March 2003

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet on the Ward Transformer Site located on Mt. Herman Road adjacent to the RDU airport in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, has been prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV office. The purpose of the fact sheet is to inform interested citizens and local officials about the Site and provide advanced notice of upcoming activities. This fact sheet provides the following information: a brief description and history of the site; a brief introduction to the Superfund process; a brief description of the upcoming Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study activities. The fact sheet outlines opportunities for public involvement, and contains EPA contacts as well as other sources of information available to the public.

KICK-OFF PUBLIC MEETING

**Date: Thursday
March 13rd, 2003**

Time: Beginning at 7:00 PM

**Where: Morrisville Commerce
Building, Suite A
260 Town Hall Drive
Morrisville, NC**

**(Directions: I-40 to Aviation Parkway, drive south 2.5
miles to Town Hall Drive)**

**Questions? Contact EPA @
1-800-435-9233
Diane Barrett or Luis E. Flores**

BRIEF SITE DESCRIPTION/HISTORY

The Ward Transformer Site is located at 6720 Mt Herman Road, north of Aviation Parkway, in a predominantly industrial area of Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. The Site is located 600 feet south of I-540 and 1000 feet southwest of US highway 70 and it is adjacent to property owned by the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority.

The Ward Transformer Site is an active facility and is owned by Ward Transformer Company. It was built on approximately 11 acres of previously undeveloped land in 1964 and has reconditioned transformers since that time.

The property contains the reconditioning facility, offices, transformer storage yard, and stormwater management lagoon. The facility is fenced and access is restricted.

As part of their operations, the facility receives transformers to be reconditioned and resold. Between 1964-1978, approximately 2% of the transformers received by Ward Transformer Company contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) with levels exceeding 50 parts per million (ppm). Since 1979, transformers containing more than 50 ppm PCBs are not accepted unless they were drained prior to

receipt.

Transformers containing less than 50 ppm PCBs are considered non-PCB transformers.

Problems Discovered/Actions Taken

Prior to 1972, all runoff from the Site flowed overland to intermittent streams west and south of the facility. In 1972, a stormwater lagoon combo was built on the southern portion of the property for retention of stormwater. At that time, not all stormwater runoff entered the lagoon.

Around 1979, a concrete curb was built around the perimeter of the concrete pad to direct all stormwater runoff into the on-site lagoons.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted stormwater treatment plant (SWTP) was installed in 1979. Stormwater collected in the lagoon is pumped to the SWTP for treatment to remove all PCBs and other compounds. After treatment, samples are collected to confirm successful treatment. Then, the treated water is discharged into an intermittent stream behind the facility. Confirmatory samples are analyzed to confirm adequate removal of PCBs, chloride, iron, fluoride, phosphorus, nitrogen, oil and grease.

Currently

The Ward Transformer Company can recondition three to four 16,000-17,000 gallon transformers per month. The facility stocks around 300 - 400 used transformers on-site for possible recondition and resale. These transformers are stored on the concrete pad located on the northwest corner of the facility. Transformers containing more than 50 ppm PCBs are not accepted unless they were drained prior to receipt.

The facility is in compliance with its NPDES

permit, and the stormwater lagoon is operating properly to capture runoff from the Site preventing migration of PCBs outside the facility.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

EPA has hired Weston Solutions, Inc., an environmental contracting firm, to prepare the work plan for conducting the investigation activities. We expect field activities to begin in early April 2003.

Hundreds of soil, stream sediment, surface water, and groundwater samples will be collected and analyzed. A Remedial Investigation (RI) report will be prepared based upon the data accumulated from the sampling activities. Based on the analytical results of the Remedial Investigation, EPA will determine if a clean up action is needed. Then, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be developed to evaluate the various alternatives or options that can be used to clean up the Site. At the completion of the Feasibility Study, EPA will hold another public meeting to propose the plan of action EPA believes is most appropriate for the Site. The public then has a 30 to 60-day comment period to review the information in the fact sheet, the documents in the repository, and comment on the proposed plan of action. Once the public comment period has ended and EPA has taken all comments into consideration, EPA will write the Record of Decision (ROD). The Record of Decision documents the official selection of a plan of action for the Site.

Presently we are about to begin the **Remedial Investigation** step of the process by conducting our first public meeting. Public involvement is a major component of the program and is solicited and encouraged throughout the process. We encourage citizens to speak up at any time, and have provided a toll free number for that purpose: **1-800-435-9233**.

Since the RI/FS process is relatively long (approximately one year), there will be periods of time when you will not see anything physically happening at the Site, and contact from EPA will be sporadic. That is when the "behind the scene" activities will be occurring, i.e.;

- Analyzing hundreds of soil, ground-water, surface water, and stream sediment samples taken during the field activities and developing a **Remedial Investigation** report to make sense of all the data collected.
- A **Risk Assessment** will be conducted to determine what risks are present at the Site that could adversely impact human health or the environment.
- Developing the **Feasibility Study** report. This report will examine various clean up alternatives for the Site.
- Preparing the **Proposed Plan**, a summary of the data from the preceding activities will be prepared and presented during the **Proposed Plan Public Meeting** to request public comments.
- The **Record of Decision** will be developed based upon all the technical data and public input.

The above outline only touches on the high points of each step during the RI/FS, with each step having numerous sub-tasks that must be accomplished.

During the entire process we urge citizens to be involved and to contact us whenever they have questions or concerns.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS (A two-way process)

The overall objectives of community relations

is to: provide the public the opportunity to express comments on and provide input to technical decisions; inform the public of planned or ongoing actions; identify and resolve conflict; and establish two-way communication between the public and EPA. EPA will conduct public meetings, mail fact sheets to individuals on the Site's mailing list, place notices in local newspapers, and maintain telephone contact with local officials and interested citizens.

The following are some of the community relations activities that will be conducted:

- conduct community interviews
- establish a Site mailing list
- prepare a Community Relations Plan
- establish an information repository
- conduct "kick-off" public meeting
- prepare fact sheet for that meeting
- prepare and distribute a Proposed Plan fact sheet
- conduct 30-day+ public comment period
- conduct a Proposed Plan public meeting
- prepare notification to the public of the selected remedy
- prepare a Record of Decision fact sheet providing more details of remedy and mail to people on Site mailing list

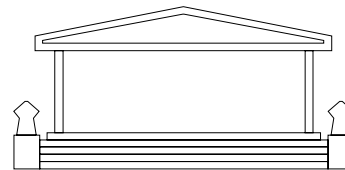
There are several ways the public can become more involved in the process. One of these methods is the **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)** which is available on Superfund Sites that have been proposed for placement on the **National Priorities List (NPL)** or that have been placed on the NPL. Congress established the TAG Program in 1986 to help affected communities understand and comment on site-related information, and thus participate in cleanup decisions. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to one community group per site for hiring technical advisors to help the community understand site-related technical information. Groups eligible to receive a TAG grant are those whose

members may be affected by a release or threatened release of toxic wastes at any facility listed or proposed for listing on the NPL, and where preliminary site work has begun. In general, eligible groups are groups of individuals who live near the site and whose health, economic well-being, or enjoyment of the environment are directly threatened. A group applying for a TAG must be nonprofit and incorporated or working toward incorporation. There are specific requirements for obtaining and maintaining a TAG. The issuance of a TAG is available since the Ward Transformer Site was proposed on 9/2/2002 for listing on the NPL.

EPA also supports the formation of the "Community Advisory Group" at a site to serve as a public forum to represent the diverse community interests, needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. This process consists of forming a committee representing citizens (between 15-20 members) in the community that are willing to meet on a regular basis (once a month) to discuss on-going Superfund activities at the Site. This group is not funded by EPA and participation would be strictly on a volunteer basis of time and efforts by each person. It is suggested that rotating terms of membership be set with each member serving two years. This system would help retain on-going knowledge of site activities and maintain continuity. Representatives from EPA would also attend meetings on a regular basis. EPA has developed criteria for the formation of a Community Working Group.

The purpose of both groups is to be involved with the process, and disseminate information to area residents. If you are interested in either program and want more information, please contact Diane Barrett at the EPA @ 1-800-435-9233.

Information Repository



Copies of documents developed during the Superfund process will be placed in the information repository located in the:

North Regional Public Library
200 Horizon Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605
Phone: (919) 870-4000

The repository will be set up in two files; one file is called the **Administrative Record** which will contain all of the documents used to make the decision of the remedy to be used to treat contamination at the Site. The other file will contain "general" information, i.e. the Community Relations Plan, fact sheets, and literature.

EPA CONTACTS

If you want more information about Site activities, please feel free to contact either of the following:

Luis E. Flores, Site Project Manager
Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. E. P. A., Region 4
North Superfund Remedial Branch
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Phone: 1-800-435-9233 ext. 28807 or 28489

MAILING LIST

If you have a change of address or want your name deleted from the mailing list or know of someone that would like to have their name added to the **Ward Transformer Site** mailing list, please complete the following information and return to Diane Barrett at the EPA address in Atlanta. Thank you.

NAME _____

ADDRESS_____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER_____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____ **DELETION OF NAME** _____ **ADDITION** _____

Return to: Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S.E.P.A., Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW, 10th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Waste Management Division
Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator
Luis E. Flores, Remedial Project Manager

Region 4
Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300